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"The Lamps are gone out" is the motto to "The Conclusion." With a most skilful beauty of illustration the expiring lamp is made to cast its symbolic fading beams on mortal life. But more touching than any words can be, is the remembrance that the lamp casting these pure and precious beams has ceased to shine in its living radiance among us. "Gone out" is written on its graceful, earthly form, but the rays, even the dying rays, cast an immortal light which shall travel "all the desert through" with some of us.

9. — *Gathered Lilies: or, Little Children in Heaven.* By A. C. THOMPSON, Author of "The Better Land." Boston: Gould and Lincoln. 1858. 16mo. pp. 59.

THIS is a miniature and very choice volume, — a store of crystals gathered in part through the assiduity in search of consolation which personal sorrow fosters. "The community of stricken parents" are the solicited readers, — to which community the author is evidently attracted by long-trained personal sympathy. In a series of brief chapters, founded on the simile of a garden, the experience of bereavement is portrayed with great tenderness, and with elaborate illustration. The scheme or plan of the book very fully presents its character; — as, I. "The Garden: Whose is it?" II. "What the Beloved is doing." III. "What does the Beloved gather?" IV. "The Period of Gathering." And so, through a series of natural garden-processes, the removal of little children is set forth. Anecdote abounds and superabounds. The illustrations overburden and often hide the special form of truth to be illustrated. The theology of the author is dimly seen. We judge it a defect, that so little definite sustaining thought is offered to the mourner. Intense grief craves intense consolation, and what better answers that end than distinct, immutable truth? Incident and illustration will engage the mind in its peaceful, unruffled hours, but in the dark and terrible tempests of bereavement "the shadow of a great rock" is longed for. Another's experience is but a dilution of the "strong drink to be given to him that is ready to perish." This little volume will, however, by its title and its choicely gathered illustrations, win its way to many a stricken heart, and help subdue the bitterness of many sore bereavements.